

Cape May Star and Wave

160TH YEAR NO. 45 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2014 75¢



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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BEE PROGRAM OFFERED IN WEST CAPE MAY

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Lower votes to expand investigation of MUA

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Lower Township Council voted Monday to allow Township Solicitor Ron Gelzunas to expand the collection of information and evidence for presentation to county and state authorities regarding alleged misconduct and mismanagement of the Lower Township Municipal Utilities Authority.

Council voted unanimously at an Oct. 20 meeting to ask the county Prosecutor's Office, state Local

Finance Board and state attorney general for an investigation of the MUA's activities. The township filed an OPRA request to obtain emails to follow the activities among the MUA, its solicitor and Lower Township Republican leaders.

At that time, Mayor Michael Beck said the investigation needed to center on whether MUA board members and a staffer acted without its own board of commissioners meeting and approving the action.

At Monday's meeting, the vote to expand the investigation was ap-

proved 4-1, with Councilman Tom Conrad casting the lone negative vote. He said the MUA was investigated by the county Prosecutor's Office not too long ago and an arrest was made, referring to former MUA executive director Matt Ecker.

"You're just beating a dead horse," Conrad said.

Gelzunas said council approved an investigation of the time period from Oct. 2 to Oct. 20 to any relevant enforcement agency, which included the county Prosecutor's Office, state Attorney General's Office and state

Local Finance Board. He said the finance board would be looking at possible mismanagement of the MUA.

Gelzunas said it wouldn't make sense to send evidence from just the time period between Oct. 2 and Oct. 20. Conrad said he believed the MUA was "running very well," with new board members.

Councilman Erik Simonsen asked if a new investigation would interfere with an ongoing investigation by the county Prosecutor's Office. Gelzunas said he did not know the status of the earlier investigation.

Following the last meeting, the township submitted information on the MUA to the prosecutor's office. Gelzunas said he believed the prosecutor's office was looking at criminal allegations while the local finance board was looking at possible mismanagement of the MUA.

Deputy Mayor Norris Clark said there was concern the MUA misappropriated funds by using public money for a public relations campaign.

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ELECTION ROUNDUP

Cape May City Council

Charlie Hendricks: 374
Jerry Inderwies Jr.: 631
Shaine Meier: 591
Bea Pessagno: 599
John Van de Vaarst: 386

Lower Township Council

Ward One
Tom Conrad: 856
Johnnie Walker: 514
Joseph Will: 190

Ward Two
James Neville: 691
Dave Perry: 1,277

Ward Three
Glenn Douglass: 609
Erik Simonsen: 1,489

School question

Should regional school funding formula be based on enrollment rather than current property valuation?

Cape May:
Yes: 664
No: 280

Lower Township:
Yes: 1,134
No: 4,680

West Cape May:
Results unavailable

* Winners in bold, results unofficial



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Visiting from Canada in the offseason

A great egret enjoys the afternoon sun in the shallows of Cape May Point's Lake Lily on Oct. 31. The bird was banded with blue wing tags June 19 on Nottawasaga Island, near Collingwood, Ontario, on the south shore of Georgian Bay, Lake Huron. The bird was too young to fly when banded. It was one of 154 young egrets that were banded at Nottawasaga Island this past summer, according to Emeritus Wildlife Biologist Chip Weseloh of the Canadian Wildlife Service.

Cape May Council approves pay hikes

Four upper managers get raises of 2%

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council approved 2 percent annual raises Monday for four upper-management employees covered by United Auto Workers (UAW) collective bargaining contracts.

The raises cover four years retroactive to 2013.

According to City Manager Bruce MacLeod, UAW Local 2327 represents five groups of employees.

"Longevity has not been eliminated but has been reduced for new hires," he said.

The new contract carries a continuation of employee contributions toward health benefits.

The new UAW contract covers the city's construction official, Public Works superintendent, Water/Sewer Utility superintendent and court administrator, MacLeod said.

Scouts construct play area for Family Promise clients

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

NORTH CAPE MAY — Boy Scouts are known for their good deeds. But Nate Holloway's deed was good enough to attract the attention of a state senator and two assemblymen.

Holloway's Eagle Scout Project was building a backyard play area for homeless children served by Family Promise. Holloway is four merit badges away from becoming an Eagle Scout,

according to his father, Jeffrey Holloway.

Family Promise of Cape May County, a nonprofit organization that assists homeless families, dedicated the outdoor play area Oct. 30 behind its building at 500 Townbank Road.

Holloway, a member of Troop 79 of Seaville and an Ocean City High School student, conceived of the project that created a deck with outdoor furniture, a picnic table on a concrete pad and backyard toys for children.

The cheery, fenced backyard has the ambience of a family home.

"The first time I heard about this place, it sounded like an amazing cause," he said.

Holloway said he had assistance from a number of members of his troop. Completing the play area entailed four six-hour work sessions, he said.

"Nate is humble, but he did a wonderful, wonderful job,"

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State Sen. Jeff Van Drew, left, speaks with Boy Scout Nate Holloway and state Assemblyman Bob Andrzejczak at Family Promise in North Cape May.



REGISTER NOW TO SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY

3RD ANNUAL "SOLEMAN" 5K RUN AND MEMORIAL WALK HONORING VETERANS

Raise awareness of the importance of character in people and to raise money for the Gene Sole Scholarship Fund.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH AT 9:00AM
CAPE MAY CONVENTION CENTER

Registration is \$25 for 5K Run & memorial walk is \$15. Veterans are Free! Pre-registration guarantees each runner to receive a tee shirt.

Information and registration at SolemanRun.com.

Local Business support needed and always welcomed for scholarship fund.